



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** August 16, 2011

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Administration Division, Fire Department

**SUBJECT:** Agreement For Reimbursement With The U.S. Forest Service For Cooperative Fire Protection

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council authorize the Fire Chief to execute the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between the City of Santa Barbara and the U. S. Forest Service in a form of agreement approved by the City Attorney.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The proposed Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement replaces the current agreement dated July 18, 2006. This proposed five-year Agreement comes as part of a normal review process between the City and Forest Service. It covers local responsibility areas not covered by other cooperative or mutual aid agreements.

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for cooperation in the prevention, detection and suppression of wildland fires within the protection areas of the City of Santa Barbara and the U. S. Forest Service. The City of Santa Barbara and the U. S. Forest Service will share predetermined resources to combat wildland fires in both the City of Santa Barbara and Los Padres National Forest's areas of responsibility. As we have seen in recent years, a fire incident in these predetermined areas could affect both parties by either direct fire loss or the loss of watershed (vegetation) that could result in flooding.

The Agreement describes the conditions in which "mutual aid" for wildland fires will be provided to each other on a non-reimbursable basis, generally for periods of less than 12 hours following initial dispatch. It also describes the conditions of "assistance by hire" on an actual cost reimbursement basis (including the transportation, salary, overtime, per diem and other approved expenses of supporting agency personnel). It contains a procedure for responding to and splitting the costs of cross-jurisdictional incidents. Finally, it contains various agreements about the sharing and deployment of resources and administration.

There are no substantive changes to this Agreement from the prior agreement, however the new Agreement does include minor non-substantive and administrative changes. The cost to each agency of this Agreement will depend on whether and how many mutual aid incidents occur.

The proposed agreement is available for review in the City's Clerk's Office Reading File.

**PREPARED BY:** Pat McElroy, Operations Division Chief

**SUBMITTED BY:** Andrew J. DiMizio, Fire Chief

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office